

As a former member of the Ohio Air National Guard, I am proud to come to the floor to recognize Lt. Col. Gary Woodward's service to his nation, his community and his family, and congratulate him on the occasion of his retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 19, 2002

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Hartford Public Library as one of only six recipients of this year's National Award for Museum and Library Service.

The Hartford Public Library's Chief Librarian, Ms. Louise Blalock, and the Board President, Mr. Paul Shipman, recently attend an awards ceremony at the White House during which First Lady Laura Bush presented them with the citation for their innovative efforts to expand the Library's services to the community. The Hartford Public Library received the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) award, in part, for developing community partners and innovative programs to address current educational, social, economic and environmental issues. Major partnerships developed by the Library include the Partnership Library, the Integrated Library Information and Management System and the Creating Readers program.

The National Award for Library Service was established in 2000 and is the only national award of its kind to recognize the public service record of America's libraries. The award is presented in conjunction with the National Award for Museum Services, which was established in 1994.

This year the Hartford Public Library has truly transformed the traditional meaning of a library with the development and installation of its "Community Information Database". The Hartford Public Library has responded directly to the needs of Hartford residents by compiling this database with such helpful information as employment opportunities, social services, and neighborhood council reports.

In addition to its model partnership with the Hartford Public System in which it has helped schools achieve curriculum goals for language development, the Library has forged a stronger relationship with the Hartford community this year by connecting all its residents to a distinguished collection of books, technology, social services, and community expertise.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in offering my most sincere congratulations to the Hartford Public Library for its exemplary service to Hartford and Connecticut's First Congressional District and for setting an example for innovation and excellence for libraries across the country.

TRIBUTE TO VALERIE DOMBROWSKI

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 19, 2002

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the distinguished life and career of a constituent and community leader, Redondo Beach School Board Member Valerie Dombrowski, who passed away on November 11, 2002.

Valerie served the city of Redondo Beach as a dedicated school board member for twenty-five years. She was a tireless advocate for special and fine arts education. Among her accomplishments are the equalization of funding for girls' and boys' sports programs and the procurement of musical instruments for children who could not afford them.

Her dedication served the students in the community while gaining her respect from others who were impressed by her resolve to fight for causes she thought worthy. As a woman who always spoke her mind and asked the tough questions, she was the voice of the teachers, parents, and administrators in the district.

While being a matriarch of the Redondo Beach community, she was also a mother of eleven, grandmother of nineteen, and great-grandmother of one. Widowed in 1980, Valerie raised her children alone and ran the two family businesses. Her strength and leadership is an inspiration to us all.

In keeping with the spirit of Valerie's commitment to special education and fine arts education, her children have established the Valerie K. Dombrowski Scholarship Fund to help children with special needs and arts programs in Redondo Beach.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join Valerie's family and friends in commemorating the loss of an outstanding educator, mother, and community leader. Valerie's tireless efforts and unwavering dedication have touched the community. We will miss her dearly, but her spirit will continue to survive.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JACK COLWELL

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 19, 2002

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American, an accomplished journalist, and an astute observer of politics, Mr. Jack Colwell of South Bend, Indiana. After nearly 40 years as the political writer for the South Bend Tribune, Mr. Colwell will soon be stepping down from that post. It is my great honor to have this opportunity to wish him well as he embarks on his well-deserved retirement.

In an age when political communication often generates more heat than light and political discourse is dominated by cynicism and spin, Mr. Colwell has set the standard for accuracy, fairness, and integrity in political journalism. The insights and observations found in his weekly column and regular news articles for the Tribune have inspired generations of readers to engage in the political process. As

a longtime reader and frequent subject of Mr. Colwell's pieces, I have marveled at his ability to inform and entertain, report the facts while also providing the broader context of an issue, and share his knowledge with a characteristic modesty, humor, and respect for the political process.

Although Hoosiers now proudly claim him as one of their own, Mr. Colwell originally hails from Ottawa, Illinois. Upon graduation from the University of Illinois College of Journalism, he began his professional journalistic career at the Champaign-Urbana Courier. Later, Mr. Colwell honed his journalistic skills while serving our country in the United States Army as the editor for the Fifth Army newspaper. Upon completion of his service, he joined the South Bend Tribune as a night police reporter. In 1964, Mr. Colwell assumed the position of political reporter for the Tribune—a post he has held ever since.

Over the course of his 38 years covering politics, Mr. Colwell's relentless pursuit of political news led to coverage of every major politician in Indiana, 20 national political conventions, and too many local, state, and national elections to count. His distinguished career in journalism earned him numerous writing awards from the Hoosier State Press Association and the Indiana Associated Press Managing Editors.

In addition to his obligations to the South Bend Tribune, since 1988, Mr. Colwell has provided a forum for conversations between citizens and their elected officials as the host of a local public affairs television program. He also finds time to share the insights of his craft with the next generation of journalists as an adjunct associate professor of journalism at the University of Notre Dame.

Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to imagine following politics in Northern Indiana without the benefit of Jack Colwell's contributions. I believe that Jack Powers, the former managing editor of the South Bend Tribune, perhaps put it most succinctly when he said at the time of Mr. Colwell's induction into the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame in 2000, "Jack Colwell is the greatest single journalist in the history of the community and the newspaper. He made us all look good. He still does." I join my constituents in thanking Jack for his years of service and wish him much success in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO BETTY PERRY

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 19, 2002

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a friend with a noteworthy career in advocacy and public service. On November 19, 2002, the National Chapter of the Older Women's League will honor Betty Perry with the OWL Chapter Leader Award for her tireless work on behalf of OWL California. As her associates and friends gather to recognize her passionate work in the advocacy arena, I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in saluting one of Sacramento's outstanding citizens.

Born and raised in Sacramento, Betty was first exposed to the public arena when she often attended committee hearings and legislative sessions in the state capitol with her father. In 1948, Betty received her M.A. degree